

Missouri Assessment Program

Spring 2005

Communication Arts

Released Items Scoring Guide

Grade 7

Session: 1
Item No.: 11
Page No: 14
Content Standard(s): 3, 5
Process Standard(s): 3.5

Item 11

How does the title “Yellow Man by Moonlight” foreshadow the action that follows in the article? Use details and/or examples from the article to support your answer.

8 lines for writing

Scoring guide

- 2 points Response includes a reasonable explanation of how the title foreshadows the action using TWO details and/or examples from the article as support.
- 1 point Response includes a reasonable explanation of how the title foreshadows the action using ONE detail or example from the article as support.
- 0 points other

An example of a top score-point response

- The title tells us what will happen because the article is about a woman who has to stay overnight at the ruins. She wakes up in the dark and is afraid, but sees the Yellow Man and feels better.

Acceptable details may include:

- narrator had to spend the night/woke up during the night/gets lost/sleeps in the ruins
- Yellow Man comforted her/talked to Yellow Man
- narrator saw Yellow Man in the moonlight

Session: 1
Item No.: 13
Page No: 15
Content Standard(s): 3, 5
Process Standard(s): 3.5

Item 13

How do the descriptions of Canyonlands National Park and Yellow Man contribute to the mysterious feeling of the article? Use details and/or examples from the article to support your answer.

8 lines for writing

Scoring guide

- 2 points Response includes a complete and reasonable text-based explanation using TWO details and/or examples from the article as support.
- 1 point Response includes an explanation using only ONE detail or example as support.
- 0 points other

Some examples of top score-point responses

Any TWO of the following details:

- narrator alone in large park/remote/far from the visitor center
- twisted trails/easy to get lost
- moonlight shines/full moon
- maze of Red Rock Country/maze, ravines, canyons, rocky place (dangerous terrain)
- grotesque description of Yellow Man (blood, human hair)
- hummingbird seems to be guiding narrator
- Yellow Man dancing on a stone wall
- Yellow Man was off limits/closed area/vandalism
- dark
- ruins of homes/sleep where ancient people slept
- 1,000 year old painting/Yellow Man there a long time
- what grows comes straight from the rocks/stunted trees
- Other relevant text-based response

Note: The explanation and details will probably be one and the same

Writing Prompt Session 2

4 Points

The paper:

- has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- uses paragraphing appropriately.
- contains a strong controlling idea.
- progresses in a logical order.
- uses effective cohesive devices (such as transitions, repetition, pronouns, parallel structure) between and/or within paragraphs.
- clearly addresses the topic and provides specific and relevant details/examples.
- uses precise and vivid language.
- contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure.
- effectively uses writing techniques (such as imagery, humor, point of view, voice).
- clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- contains few errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling.

3 Points

The paper:

- has a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- uses paragraphing.
- contains a controlling idea.
- generally progresses in a logical order.
- may use cohesive devices.
- addresses the topic and uses relevant details/examples.
- uses language that is usually precise.
- contains sentences that are clear and show some variety in structure.
- uses writing techniques.
- shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- may contain errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are not distracting to the reader.

2 Points

The paper:

- has evidence of a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- shows evidence of paragraphing.
- contains some sense of direction but may lack focus.
- may not progress in a logical order.
- at times seems awkward and lacks cohesion.
- addresses the topic but may contain some details that are not relevant.
- may use imprecise language.
- contains sentences that are generally clear but lack variety in structure.
- may use writing techniques.
- shows some awareness of audience and purpose.
- contains errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that may be distracting to the reader.

1 Point

The paper:

- may lack evidence of a beginning, a middle, and/or an end.
- may lack evidence of paragraphing.
- is difficult to follow and lacks focus.
- does not progress in a logical order and may digress to unrelated topics.
- is awkward and lacks cohesion.
- may address the topic but lacks details.
- uses imprecise language.
- contains sentences that are unclear and lack variety in structure.
- does not use writing techniques.
- shows little or no awareness of audience or purpose.
- contains repeated errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization and/or spelling that are distracting to the reader.